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English II

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Ted Talk: Global Warming

<https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_wilkinson_how_empowering_women_and_girls_can_help_stop_global_warming>

 The speaker of this Ted Talk is Katharine Wilkinson. She is the author of two books about global warming/climate change: *Between God & Green: How Evangelicals Are Cultivating a Middle Ground on Climate Change* and *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global warming.* According to her bio on the Ted website, “The first book grew out of my doctoral research at the University of Oxford, where I was a Rhodes Scholar. The second was a *New York Times* bestseller.” She is also leading communication and engagement at the nonprofit organization Project Drawdown. According to the Drawdown website, “Project Drawdown is a world-class research and communication organization which serves as a non-partisan, non-commercial, highly-trusted source of solutions to reverse global warming.” Katharine feels very strongly about the fact that everyone on Earth needs to unite to solve the climate crisis that is on our hands.

 A lot of the information in this Ted Talk was new to me. I knew the basic global warming/climate change facts that she talked about, like the carbon dioxide emission rates and the fact that countries are falling behind when it comes down to cutting back emissions. Most of the new things that I learned were related to the whole central idea of the Ted Talk, that creating equality for women and girls could be the key to reversing the damage that is being done to our planet. One of the big supporting points to the main idea is that women are small holders. She goes on to explain that women produce 60% to 80% of food in lower income countries. Many times these women are farming on 5 acres or less with less access to resources. Some of the resources that men typically have in agriculture that women don’t are land rights, credit and capital, training, and tools and technology. This means that women produce less food because they have fewer resources even though they are just as capable to put in the work. If this gap were to be closed. 20-30% more food could be produced from the same garden or field. This could help reduce the need for deforestation because we wouldn’t need to chop down trees to make space for agricultural needs.

Another main point is that educating girls could give them better health, financial security, agency at home and in society, and the capacity to navigate climate change. She explains that generally, women are more likely to have less children if they are educated. Over time, this could decrease the human population, which would eventually reduce carbon emissions. Educating young girls would also give them more opportunities to speak up and make a difference when it comes to ideas about climate change.

I think many of the solutions that she gave to the problem were very good and well thought out. At first, it didn’t really seem like some of the things she was saying would relate to the subject of climate change, but in the end, all of her points and ideas had a meaning behind them. It makes a lot of sense that gender equality could help with our global needs because with everyone being held at the same standards, more ideas and more funding for different types of renewable energy would be proposed. Some of her solutions could fall short because it will be hard to get everyone to care about what she has to say. The whole gender equality subject can be very touchy for some people, so they might just ignore what she has to say because it is based around something that they may not feel comfortable with. That doesn’t mean that her message won’t affect many people, but it might not make everyone on Earth switch gears and start to fix global warming right away.

When I first watched this Ted Talk, I wasn’t really sure how Katharine Wilkinson was going to explain to me that empowering women could help with global warming, but she actually explained it very well. She made the points that educating women and creating equality for everyone could help create a better world where the planet is healthy again. I think this Ted Talk had a very good message, and it could be very useful in getting people to make a change for the better.